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Examination of rats for plague infection.

Passed Assistant Surgeon Currie reports that during the week ended January 18 198 rats were examined bacteriologically at the plague laboratory of the Service at Honolulu. No plague infection found.

Summaries of rat examinations, three months ended December 31 and six months ended December 31, 1907.

Doctor Currie further reports, January 17:

Summary of the number of rats examined by this laboratory: Rats examined bacteriologically during quarter ended December 31, 1907, 2,171. Rats found infected with *B. pestis*, 7. Rats examined for the half year ended December 31, 1907, 3,242. Rats found infected with *B. pestis* during the half year ended December 31, 1907, 11. Of these infected rats 2 were from Aiea, 2 from Olaa plantation, and 7 from Hilo. No infected rats have been found in Honolulu, although the majority of those examined were obtained in this city. The 7 rats found infected during the last quarter were all from Hilo.

HONDURAS.

Report from Puerto Cortes—Clean bills of health issued.

The following is received from the Department of State, under date of February 4:

The vice-consul at Puerto Cortes reports in a telegram of January 31 that clean bills of health are being issued at that port.

Note. The reference in heading to yellow fever in interior towns, (see Public Health Reports, February 7, 1908, page 156) refers to interior towns of Guatemala.

INDIA.

Reports from Calcutta—Transactions of Service—Cholera, plague, and smallpox—Plague in India and Bengal.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Eakins reports, January 9:

During the week ended January 3 a bill of health was issued to the steamship *Queen Mary*, bound for Philadelphia and New York, with a total crew of 36. The usual precautions were taken, the holds fumigated, rat guards placed on the wharf lines, and Asiatics' effects disinfected.

During the week ended December 21 there were 51 deaths from cholera, 18 from plague, and 2 from smallpox in Calcutta. In Bengal there were 279 cases of plague with 227 deaths.

In India there were 3,410 cases of plague with 2,602 deaths.

Comparative death rate of Calcutta, 1902–1907.

The following is received from Consul-General Michael under date of January 9:

The mean death rate in Calcutta per week during the last five years up to December 21, 1907, was 36.3 per thousand. The general death